

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application. The Office action indicates that claims 1-29 are subject to a restriction requirement. As indicated in the Office action, it is alleged that the application contains claims directed to two distinct inventions:

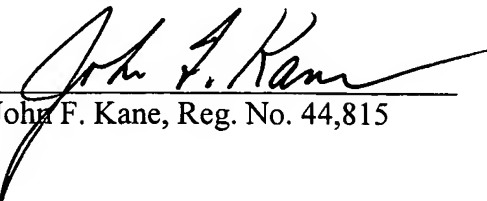
Group I – Claims 1-10 and 27-29, drawn to a method of purifying glycosides of genistin and daidzin.

Group II – Claims 11-26, drawn to a method of preparing aglycons of genistin and daidzin.

Applicants elect to prosecute the claims of Group I, with traverse. Applicants submit that inventions I and II are related as combination and sub-combination, wherein the sub-combination is essential to the combination. See MPEP §806.05(c). Applicants submit that the relationship between the claims is such that the separately claimed sub-combination (Group I) constitutes the essential distinguishing feature of the combination (Group II) and, therefore, the inventions are not distinct and the requirement for restriction should not be made. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn and claims 1-29 be examined on the merits.

In the event that the Examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this response, please contact the undersigned at the telephone indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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